

(12) **United States Patent**
Davis

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,175,507 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Nov. 3, 2015**

(54) **ADJUSTABLE DOOR JAMB WRAP FOR EXTERIOR DOOR JAMB**

USPC 52/210, 212, 213, 716.8, 717.06, 101, 52/204.54, 741.3, 745.15, 170, 835
See application file for complete search history.

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

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(21) Appl. No.: **14/444,728**

(22) Filed: **Jul. 28, 2014**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2015/0159420 A1 Jun. 11, 2015

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(63) Continuation of application No. 13/212,866, filed on Aug. 18, 2011, now abandoned.

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(60) Provisional application No. 61/374,972, filed on Aug. 18, 2010.

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(51) **Int. Cl.**

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E06B 7/16 (2006.01)

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E06B 1/62 (2006.01)

E06B 7/28 (2006.01)

E06B 1/34 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC ... **E06B 1/62** (2013.01); **E06B 1/34** (2013.01);

E06B 7/16 (2013.01); **E06B 7/28** (2013.01);

E06B 2001/622 (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC E06B 1/045; E06B 1/20; E06B 1/347;

E06B 2001/622; E06B 2001/628; E06B 7/28;

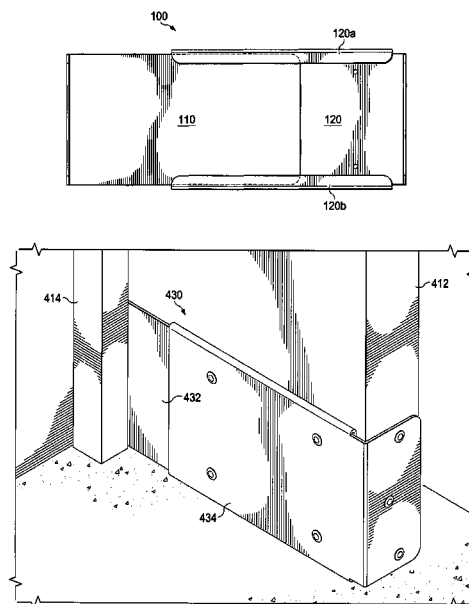
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ABSTRACT

An adjustable door jamb wrap for use on a door jamb of an exterior door. The adjustable door jamb wrap covers openings next to the door that are commonly found on door jambs with beveled edges. The door jamb wrap includes an outer bracket having an "L" shape. The door jamb wrap also includes an inner bracket having an "L" shape, the inner bracket slidably coupled to the outer bracket. The inner bracket and the outer bracket together form a "C" shape having an adjustable size and configured to surround a bottom edge of the door jamb.

10 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets



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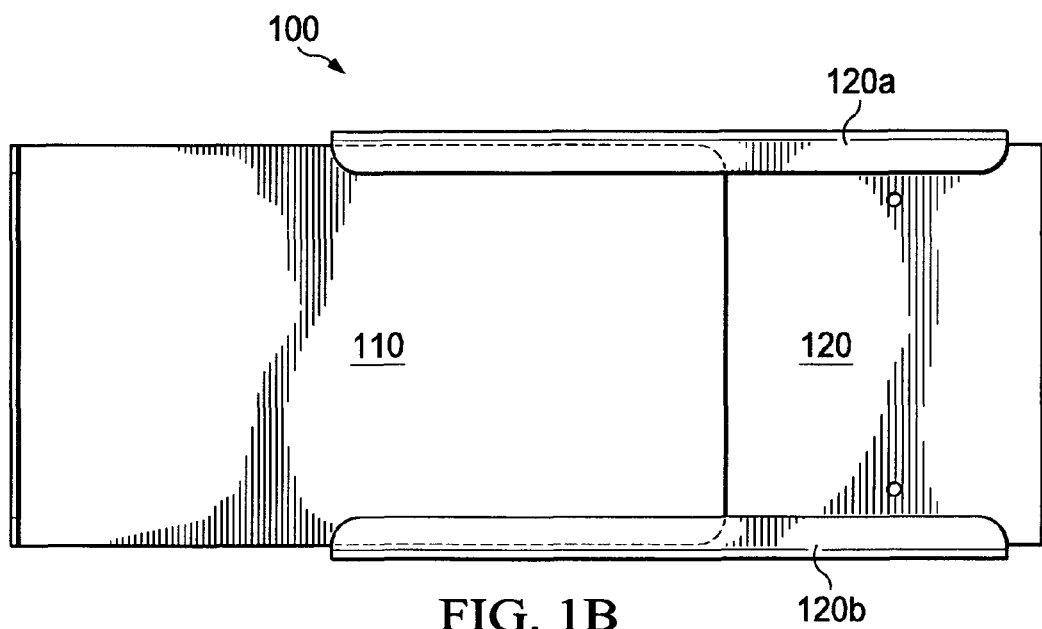
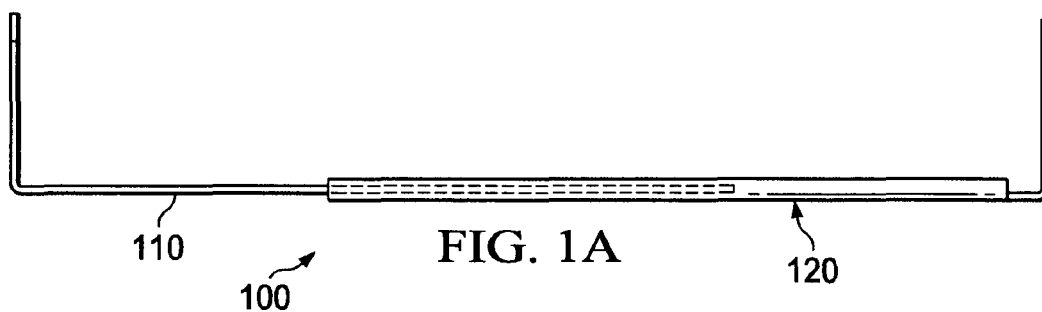
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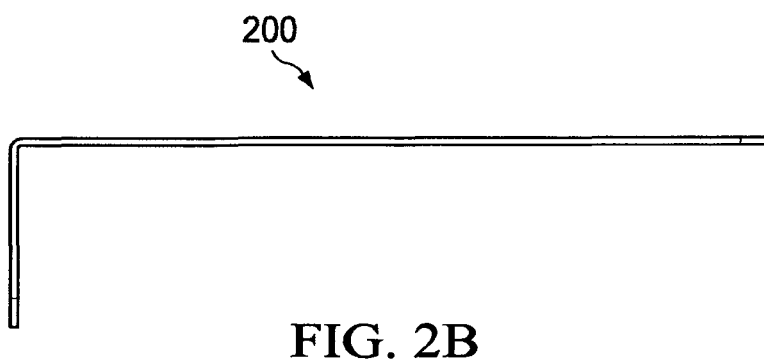
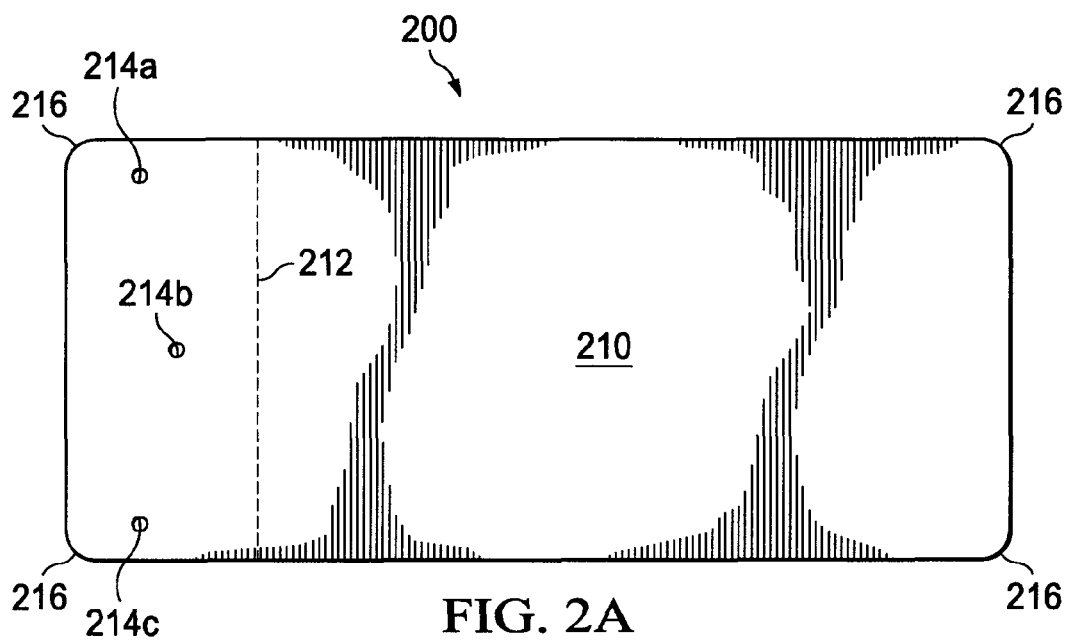
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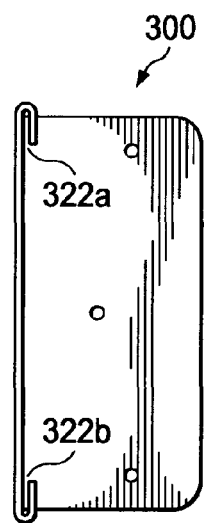
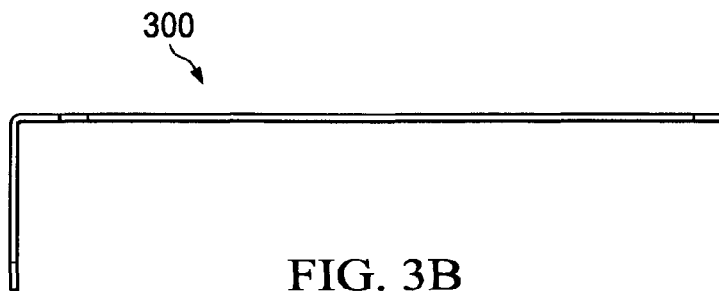
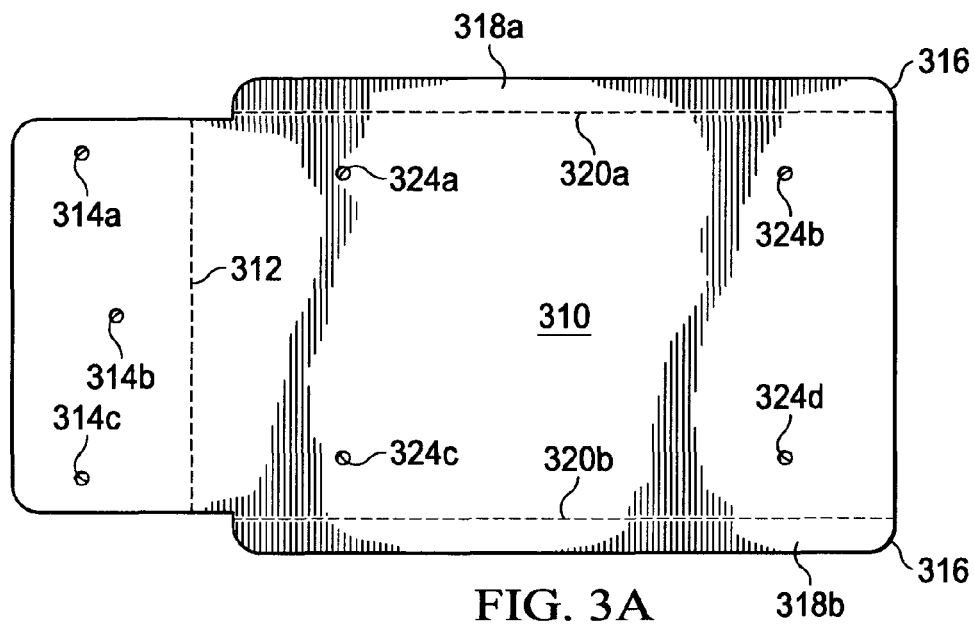
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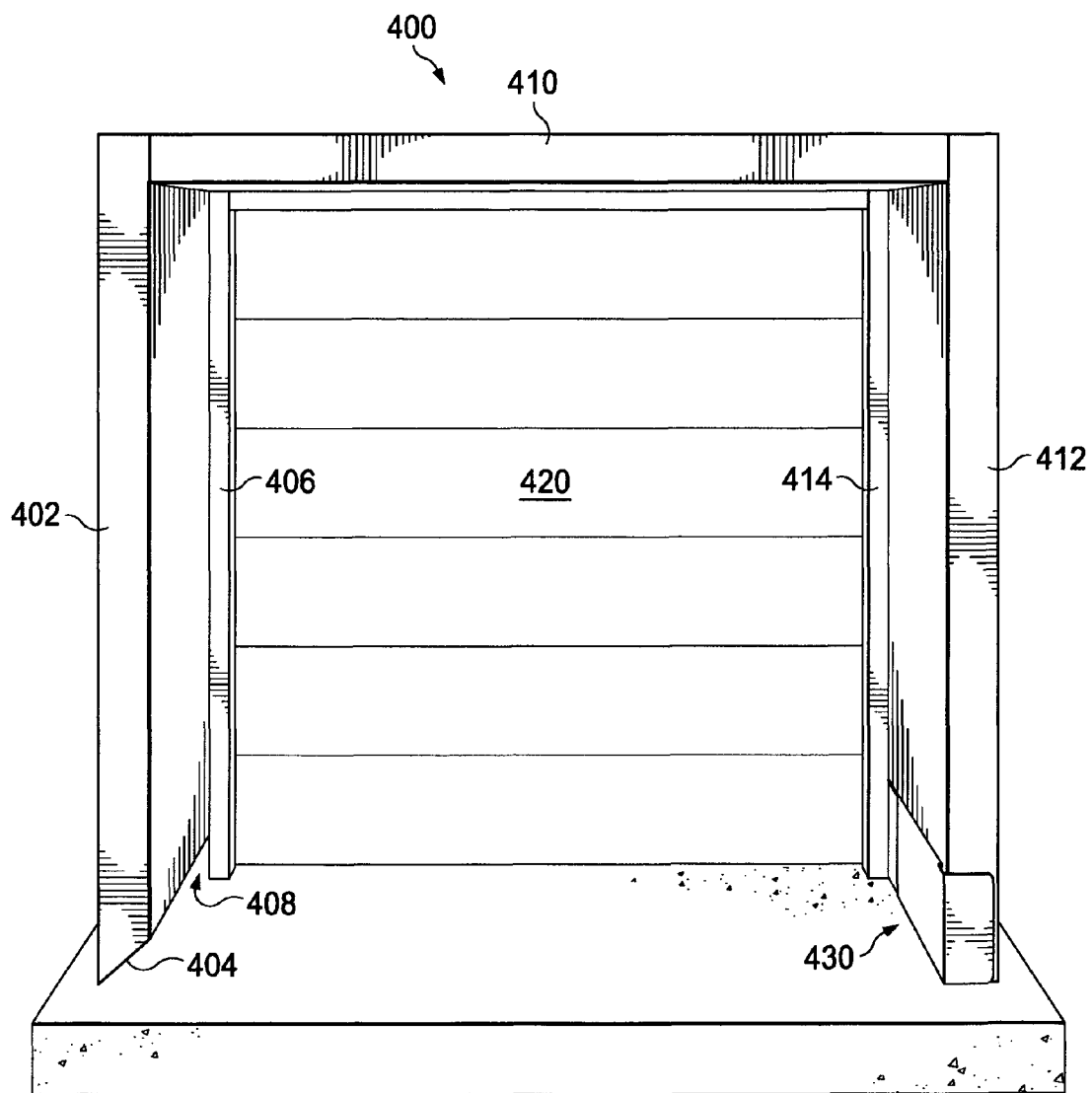


FIG. 4

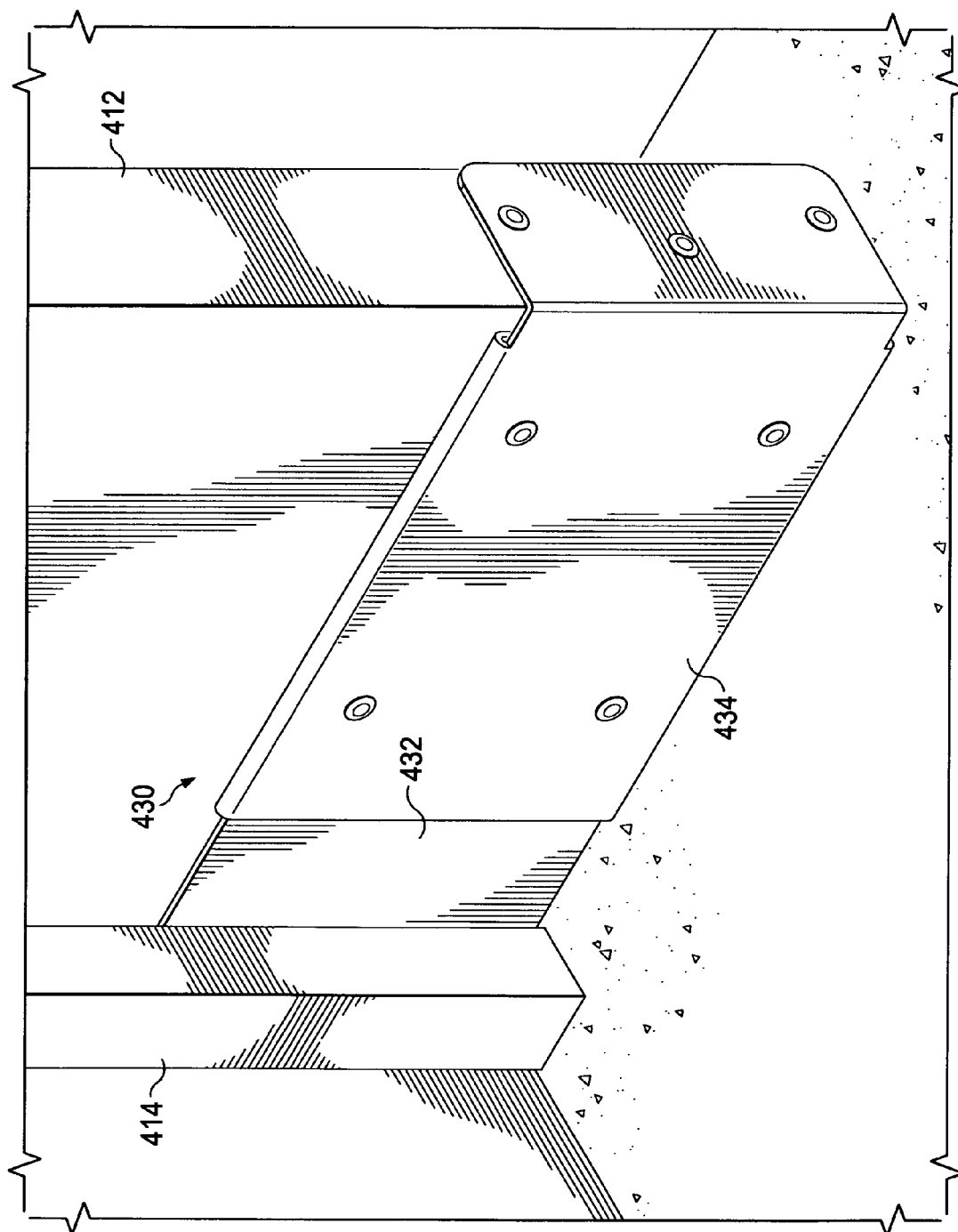


FIG. 5

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ADJUSTABLE DOOR JAMB WRAP FOR EXTERIOR DOOR JAMB

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a continuation of prior application Ser. No. 13/212,866, filed on Aug. 18, 2011, which claims priority under 35 USC 119(e) to U.S. provisional Application Ser. No. 61/374,972, filed on Aug. 18, 2010, and which are incorporated herein by reference.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates generally to door frames and door jambs, and more particularly to an adjustable, protective jamb wrap for a door jamb for an exterior door.

BACKGROUND

A structure, such as a garage, storage unit, or warehouse, typically has one or more doors to the exterior environment. In many cases, these doors are overhead doors that are formed in sections and slide overhead along a track. Most doors, including overhead doors, are surrounded by a door jamb. The door jamb frames the door, and in some cases, provides support for the door. In the case of an exterior overhead door, the door jamb is frequently constructed with a beveled edge near the ground. The beveled edge typically creates a small gap or opening at the bottom of the jamb where the overhead door meets the jamb. The small opening is large enough for pests, such as insects or rodents, to enter the structure. The small opening is often plugged with steel wool, plastic foam, or another material, in an attempt to keep pests out of the structure. However, such materials are unsightly, and are often damaged or swept away during cleaning, or chewed through by rodents. These shortcomings may be unacceptable to the owner or manager of the structure.

Accordingly, there is a need in the art for a protective device to close off the opening formed at the bottom of the door jamb.

SUMMARY

In accordance with one embodiment, there is provided an adjustable door jamb wrap for use on a door jamb of an exterior door. The door jamb wrap includes an outer bracket having an “L” shape. The door jamb wrap also includes an inner bracket having an “L” shape, the inner bracket slidably coupled to the outer bracket. The inner bracket and the outer bracket together form a “C” shape having an adjustable size and configured to surround a bottom edge of the door jamb.

In accordance with another embodiment, there is provided a structure having an exterior door, the exterior door having a door jamb, the door jamb a top jamb and first and second side jambs. Each side jamb includes an adjustable door jamb wrap. Each door jamb wrap includes an outer bracket having an “L” shape. Each door jamb wrap also includes an inner bracket having an “L” shape, the inner bracket slidably coupled to the outer bracket. The inner bracket and outer bracket together form a “C” shape having an adjustable size and configured to surround a bottom edge of the door jamb.

In yet another embodiment, there is provided a method for covering an opening at a bottom edge of a door jamb of an exterior door. The method includes placing an inner bracket of an adjustable door jamb wrap against the bottom end of the door jamb. The method also includes placing an outer bracket

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of the door jamb wrap adjacent the inner bracket. The method further includes sliding the outer bracket over the inner bracket until the inner bracket and outer bracket together form a “C” shape surrounding the bottom edge of the door jamb.

Other technical features may be readily apparent to one skilled in the art from the following figures, descriptions, and claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

For a more complete understanding of the present disclosure, and the advantages thereof, reference is now made to the following descriptions taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein like numbers designate like objects, and in which:

FIGS. 1A and 1B illustrate top and back views, respectively, of an adjustable jamb wrap for use around a door jamb in accordance with one embodiment;

FIGS. 2A and 2B illustrate different views of an inner bracket of an adjustable jamb wrap in accordance with one preferred embodiment;

FIGS. 3A through 3C illustrate different views of an outer bracket of an adjustable jamb wrap in accordance with one preferred embodiment;

FIG. 4 illustrates a front view of a door jamb with an adjustable jamb wrap installed on one side of the door jamb, in accordance with one embodiment; and

FIG. 5 depicts a detailed view of the door jamb with the installed adjustable jamb wrap.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The present disclosure describes an adjustable jamb wrap. Such a device may be employed around the door jamb of an exterior door, such as an overhead door. Such an overhead door is commonly found on garages, storage buildings, warehouses, and other commercial and residential buildings.

FIGS. 1A and 1B illustrate top and back views, respectively, of an adjustable jamb wrap **100** for use around a door jamb in accordance with one embodiment. The jamb wrap **100** includes an inner bracket **110** and an outer bracket **120**. The inner bracket **110** and the outer bracket **120** are L-shaped brackets that slide together, as depicted in FIG. 1A. Both brackets **110**, **120** are formed from thin sheet material or another suitable material, as described in greater detail below.

The outer bracket **120** includes a top tab **120a** and a bottom tab **120b** that fold over the outer bracket **120**, as depicted in FIG. 1B. The tabs **120a**, **120b** form grooves into which the inner bracket **110** may slide, as depicted by the dotted lines in FIG. 1B. The inner bracket **110** may slide left and right (or inward and outward) with respect to the outer bracket **120**, where the sliding motion is constrained by the tabs **120a**, **120b**. By sliding the inner bracket **110** with respect to the outer bracket **120** to an appropriate point, an installer can create a C-shaped jamb wrap **100** that has an overall width suitable for doors jambs in a variety of sizes. This is described in greater detail below.

FIGS. 2A and 2B illustrate different views of an inner bracket **200** of an adjustable jamb wrap in accordance with one preferred embodiment. The inner bracket **200** may represent the inner bracket **110** of the jamb wrap **100** shown in FIGS. 1A and 1B.

The inner bracket **200** is formed of a flat, substantially rectangular piece of sheet metal **210**, as depicted in FIG. 2A. In a preferred embodiment, the sheet metal **210** is 24 gauge steel approximately four inches (4") in width and approximately eight and seven tenths inches (8.7") in length. Other

dimensions may be selected for the inner bracket **200** as necessary for the chosen size of the jamb wrap **100**. Twenty-four gauge steel offers superior machining properties, durability, and resistance to damage by pests. In addition, it is thin enough to be easily bent and readily slide under any trim or moulding pieces that may be installed on the door jamb, as described in greater detail below. In other embodiments, other suitable materials, such as aluminum or plastic, may be used, as long as the materials are impervious or resistant to damage by pests and/or weather. Thinner or thicker materials may be used as well.

The sheet metal **210** is designed to be bent along a bend line **212**. During manufacture, the sheet metal **210** is bent approximately ninety degrees (90°) along the bend line **212** to form the “L” shaped inner bracket **200** depicted in FIG. 2B. In a preferred embodiment, the bend line **212** is located approximately seven inches (7") from one end of the sheet metal **210**. In other embodiments, the bend line **212** may be located a shorter or greater distance from one end of the sheet metal **210**.

The sheet metal **210** includes three (3) holes **214a-214c** that provide a location to affix the inner bracket **200** to the door jamb using screws, nails, or other suitable fasteners. The holes **214a-214c** are located horizontally approximately half-way between one edge of the sheet metal **210** and the bend line **212**. In a preferred embodiment, the holes **214a, 214c** are aligned vertically and are offset horizontally from the middle hole **214b**. In a preferred embodiment, the holes **214a, 214c** are located approximately three-eighths of an inch ($\frac{3}{8}$ ") from the top and bottom edges, respectively, of the sheet metal **210**. The middle hole **214b** is centered vertically on the sheet metal **210**. Although the sheet metal **210** is described with three (3) holes arranged as depicted, it will be understood that more or fewer holes or holes arranged in other configurations may be used as long as the arrangement of holes provides a means for securely affixing the inner bracket **200** to a door jamb.

The sheet metal **210** includes four rounded corners **216**. The rounded corners **216** facilitate the inner bracket **200** easily aligning with and sliding into the grooves formed in the outer bracket (e.g., outer bracket **120**) of the jamb wrap. Additionally, the rounded corners **216** eliminate sharp points associated with square corners that could injure an installer or mar a surface of the door jamb during installation of the jamb wrap.

FIGS. 3A through 3C illustrate different views of an outer bracket **300** of an adjustable jamb wrap in accordance with one preferred embodiment. The outer bracket **300** may represent the outer bracket **120** of the adjustable jamb wrap **100** shown in FIGS. 1A and 1B.

Like the inner bracket **200** depicted in FIG. 2A, the outer bracket **300** is formed from a flat piece of sheet metal **310**, as depicted in FIG. 3A. In a preferred embodiment, the sheet metal **310** is 24 gauge steel approximately four and nine tenths inches (4.9") in width and eight and seven tenths inches (8.7") in length. Other dimensions may be selected for the outer bracket **300** as necessary for the chosen size of the jamb wrap **100**. In addition, other materials having the same or different thickness may be used. In some embodiments, the inner bracket **200** and the outer bracket **300** will be formed from the same material.

The sheet metal **310** is designed to be bent along a bend line **312**. During manufacture, the sheet metal **310** is bent approximately ninety degrees (90°) along the bend line **312** to form the “L” shaped inner bracket **300** depicted in FIG. 3B. In a preferred embodiment, the bend line **312** is located approximately seven inches (7") from one end of the sheet metal **310**.

In other embodiments, the bend line **312** may be located a shorter or greater distance from one end of the sheet metal **310**.

The sheet metal **310** includes a top tab **318a** and a bottom tab **318b**. In a preferred embodiment, the tabs **318a, 318b** are approximately six and six tenths inches (6.6") long and approximately four tenths of an inch (0.4") wide. The inner edge of the tab **318a** is defined by a hem line **320a**. Likewise, the inner edge of the tab **318b** is defined by a hem line **320b**. The tabs **318a, 318b** are designed to be folded over along the hem lines **320a, 320b**. During manufacture, the tabs **318a, 318b** are bent or folded approximately one hundred eighty degrees (180°) along the hem lines **320a, 320b** to form the flat “C” shape as depicted in the cross-section view of the outer bracket **300** in FIG. 3C. In one embodiment, the tabs **318a, 318b** are folded in the same direction as the sheet metal **310** is bent along the bend line **312**. In some embodiments, each tab **318a, 318b** may be folded over a shim approximately six hundredths of an inch (0.06") thick (not shown). The shim is used during manufacture to assist in the folding or bending step, and may be removed once the fold is complete. Once folded, the tabs **318a, 318b** define a top groove **322a** and a bottom groove **322b**, as depicted in FIG. 3C. The grooves **322a, 322b** accept one edge of the inner bracket **200** and constrain the inner bracket **200** to a sliding motion along the outer bracket **300**. The tabs **318a, 318b** include rounded corners **316**. The rounded corners **316** facilitate the inner bracket **200** easily aligning with and sliding into the grooves **322a, 322b**.

The sheet metal **310** includes seven (7) holes **314a-314c** and **324a-324d** that provide a location to affix the outer bracket **300** to the door jamb using screws, nails, or other suitable fasteners. Three of the holes **314a-314c** are located horizontally approximately half-way between one edge of the sheet metal **310** and the bend line **312**. In a preferred embodiment, the holes **314a, 314c** are aligned vertically and are offset horizontally from the middle hole **314b**. In a preferred embodiment, the holes **314a, 314c** are located approximately three-eighths of an inch ($\frac{3}{8}$ ") from the top and bottom edges, respectively, of the sheet metal **310**. The middle hole **314b** is centered vertically on the sheet metal **310**.

The remaining four (4) holes **324a-324d** are located on the side of the bend line **312** opposite the holes **314a-314c**. In a preferred embodiment, the holes **324a-324d** are arranged in a rectangular pattern approximately one inch (1") from the top and bottom edges of the sheet metal **310**, approximately one and five eighths inches ($1\frac{5}{8}$ ") from the bend line **312**, and approximately two inches (2") from the right edge of the sheet metal **310**.

Although the sheet metal **310** is described with seven (7) holes arranged as depicted, it will be understood that more or fewer holes or holes arranged in other configurations may be used as long as the arrangement of holes provides a means for securely affixing the outer bracket **300** to a door jamb.

FIG. 4 illustrates a front view of a door jamb **400** with an adjustable jamb wrap **430** installed on one side of the door jamb **400**, in accordance with one embodiment. The jamb wrap **430** may represent the adjustable jamb wrap **100** shown in FIGS. 1A and 1B. The door jamb **400** is constructed of wood, concrete board, or another suitable construction material, and includes a left jamb **402**, a top jamb **410**, and a right jamb **412** that surround a door **420**. In certain embodiments, the door **420** may be an overhead exterior door to a structure, such as a garage or a warehouse.

The left jamb **402** includes a beveled bottom edge **404** that tapers from the thickness of the left jamb **402** down to approximately zero thickness at the bottom. The beveled bot-

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tom edge **404** typically serves as a decorative feature and to minimize the amount of wood that contacts the ground. Wood in direct contact with the ground can lead to moisture problems, such as rot. The right jamb **406** includes a corresponding beveled bottom edge, although the beveled edge of the right jamb **406** is hidden by the jamb wrap **430** in FIG. 4.

The left jamb **402** also includes a trim piece **406** that is narrower than the left jamb **402** and is positioned adjacent to the door **420**. The trim piece **406** is typically a decorative feature that provides a clean-looking transition between the door **420** and the left jamb **402**. In certain embodiments, the trim piece **406** extends substantially or completely to the ground, such as shown in FIG. 4. In other embodiments, the trim piece **406** extends approximately to the start of the beveled bottom edge **404**, or to another point along the left jamb **402**. The right jamb **412** includes a similar trim piece **414**.

As shown in FIG. 4, the beveled bottom edge **404** of the left jamb **402** exposes a small opening **408** adjacent the bottom left corner of the door **420**, between the beveled bottom edge **404**, the trim piece **406**, and the ground. The opening **408** passes to the left edge of the door **420** into the interior space of the structure. In other words, the opening **408** provides a small portal from the exterior to the interior of the structure, through which rodents, large insects, and other pests may enter the structure. A corresponding opening is located near the bottom of the right jamb **412**, although it is hidden and blocked by the jamb wrap **430**.

As shown in FIG. 4 (and in greater detail in FIG. 5), the jamb wrap **430** surrounds the bottom part of the right jamb **412**. When installed, the jamb wrap **430** fits tightly around the right jamb **412** and contacts (or is in very close proximity to) the ground. The jamb wrap **430** covers the beveled bottom edge of the right jamb **412** and completely hides the opening to the structure below the beveled edge. Thus, the jamb wrap **430** blocks the opening that allows pests to enter the structure near the right jamb **412**.

As shown in FIG. 5, the jamb wrap **430** includes an inner bracket **432** and an outer bracket **434**. The inner bracket **432** may represent the inner bracket **110** and/or the inner bracket **200**. Likewise, the outer bracket **434** may represent the outer bracket **120** and/or the outer bracket **300**. During installation, the inner bracket **432** slides between the trim piece **414** and the right jamb **412**, with the angled portion of the inner bracket **432** (not shown) fitting tightly against the inner edge of the right jamb **412**. The outer bracket **434** slides over the inner bracket **432**, with one end of the inner bracket **434** sliding into grooves on the back side of the outer bracket **434**. The angled portion of the outer bracket **434** fits tightly up against the outer edge of the right jamb **412**. Holes in the inner bracket **432** and the outer bracket **434** (like the holes **214a-214c**, **314a-314c**, and **324a-324d**) allow the brackets **432**, **434** to be secured to the edges and side of the right jamb **412** using screws, nails, or any other suitable fasteners.

In preferred embodiments, the jamb wrap **430** is powder-coated or painted to match or blend with the color of the door jamb **400**. In certain embodiments, the jamb wrap **430** may be manufactured in a variety of predetermined colors. In some embodiments, the jamb wrap **430** may be paintable to any desired color.

Because the inner bracket **432** and the outer bracket **434** slide with respect to each other, the jamb wrap **430** is adjustable to fit door jambs of different sizes. For example, a jamb wrap including the dimensions of the inner bracket **200** and the outer bracket **300** is adjustable to fit door jambs approximately seven to thirteen inches (7"-13") wide. It will be understood that other jamb wraps having other dimensions to fit smaller or larger door jambs are possible.

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FIG. 4 depicts the jamb wrap **430** installed on only the right jamb **412**. No jamb wrap is installed on the left jamb **402**. This is only to illustrate the details of the door jamb **400** and the opening **408**. It will be understood that preferred embodiments include installation of the jamb wrap **430** on both the left jamb **402** and the right jamb **412**.

It may be advantageous to set forth definitions of certain words and phrases used throughout this patent document. The terms "include" and "comprise," as well as derivatives thereof, mean inclusion without limitation. The term "or" is inclusive, meaning and/or. The phrases "associated with" and "associated therewith," as well as derivatives thereof, mean to include, be included within, interconnect with, contain, be contained within, connect to or with, couple to or with, be communicable with, cooperate with, interleave, juxtapose, be proximate to, be bound to or with, have, have a property of, or the like.

While this disclosure has described certain embodiments and generally associated methods, alterations and permutations of these embodiments and methods will be apparent to those skilled in the art. Accordingly, the above description of example embodiments does not define or constrain this disclosure. Other changes, substitutions, and alterations are also possible without departing from the spirit and scope of this disclosure, as defined by the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A structure having an exterior door, the exterior door having a frame with a door jamb, the door jamb comprising:
 - a top jamb; and
 - first and second side jambs, wherein each side jamb comprises an adjustable door jamb wrap, each door jamb wrap comprising:
 - an outer bracket having an "L" shape with a first portion and a second portion, wherein the first portion lies in a first plane and the second portion lies in a second plane perpendicular to the first plane, wherein the first portion comprises a plurality of grooves that form a channel, wherein a longitudinal axis of each groove of the plurality of grooves is orthogonal to the second plane, wherein a length of the first portion is greater than a width of the first portion, and wherein the length of the first portion extends in a direction parallel to the plurality of grooves; and
 - an inner bracket having an "L" shape, the inner bracket slidably coupled to the outer bracket in a first direction via the channel, wherein a length of the inner bracket is greater than a width of the inner bracket, and wherein the length of the inner bracket extends in direction parallel to the first direction;
 - wherein the inner bracket and the outer bracket together form a "C" shape having an adjustable size and configured to wrap a bottom edge of the door jamb.
2. The structure of claim 1, wherein the outer bracket comprises a plurality of grooves configured to accept edges of the inner bracket, the plurality of grooves constraining the inner bracket to a sliding movement with respect to the outer bracket.
3. The structure of claim 1, wherein the inner bracket and the outer bracket have a plurality of apertures, each aperture configured to accept a fastening device, the fastening device configured to affix the inner and outer brackets to the door jamb.
4. The structure of claim 3, wherein at least one of the apertures in the outer bracket is in a bent section of the outer bracket, the bent section configured to be affixed to an outer edge of the door jamb by a fastener through each of the at least one aperture.

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5. The structure of claim 3, wherein at least one of the apertures in the inner bracket is in a bent section of the inner bracket, the bent section configured to be affixed to an inner edge of the door jamb by a fastener through each of the at least one aperture.

6. The structure of claim 1, wherein the plurality of grooves are defined by tabs folded from the top and bottom edges of the outer bracket.

7. The structure of claim 1, wherein the door jamb wrap, when installed, is configured to cover an opening adjacent a bottom corner of the exterior door.

8. The structure of claim 1, wherein the inner and outer brackets comprise a steel material.

9. A method for covering an opening at a bottom edge of a door jamb of an exterior door, comprising:

placing an inner bracket of an adjustable door jamb wrap against the bottom end of the door jamb in a first direction, wherein a length of the inner bracket is greater than a width of the inner bracket, and wherein the length of the inner bracket extends in a direction parallel to the first direction;

placing an outer bracket of the door jamb wrap adjacent the inner bracket, wherein the outer bracket has a first por-

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tion which lies in a first plane and a second portion which lies in a second plane perpendicular to the first plane, wherein the first portion comprises a plurality of grooves that form a channel, wherein the longitudinal axis of each groove of the plurality of grooves is orthogonal to the second plane, wherein a length of the first portion is greater than a width of the first portion, and wherein the length of the first portion extends in a direction parallel to the plurality of grooves;

sliding the outer bracket over the inner bracket via the channel until the inner bracket and outer bracket together form a "C" shape wrapping the bottom edge of the door jamb; and

fastening the inner bracket and the outer bracket of the door jamb wrap to the door jamb with a plurality of fasteners passing through a plurality of apertures in each of the inner bracket and the outer bracket.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the plurality of grooves are defined by tabs folded from the top and bottom edges of the outer bracket.

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